

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 DOTE-00 SS-20 NSC-10

SCEM-02 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01 /101 W

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R 281400Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5063

UNCLAS \*ASSAU 1996

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, ENRG, BF

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: BAHAMAS AVIATION FUEL ALLOCATION POLICY

REF: NASSAU 1985

1. THE FOLLOWING IS THE BAHAMAS AVIATION FUEL ALLOCATION POLICY STATEMENT MADE BY THE MIN OF TOURISM TO THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY ON DEC 19 AND REFERRED TO IN THE REFTEL.

2. BEGIN TEXT: MEMBERS ARE NO DOUBT AWARE OF THE DEEPENING ENERGY CRISIS WHICH IS ENVELOPING MANY NATIONS OF THE WORLD AND WHICH PROMISES TO ALTER THE HABITS AND LIFE STYLES OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE IN THE YEARS TO COME. WHILE WE AS A NON MANUFACTURING NATION WILL NO DOUBT BE SPARED OF THE TRIALS WHICH WILL BESET OUR NEIGHBORS, WE WILL NOT, I FEAR, ESCAPE ENTIRELY FROM THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF THIS CRISIS.

I WOULD LIKE SPECIFICALLY TO REFER TO THE EFFECTS OF THE AVIATION FUEL SHORTAGE ON OUR TOURIST INDUSTRY. DURING THE PAST TWO WEEKS I HAVE HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF A NUMBER OF OUR MAJOR AND CHARTER AIRLINES AS WELL AS WITH OFFICIALS OF VARIOUS AVIATION FUEL SUPPLIERS. THE EXTENT OF THE SHORTAGE AND ITS ULTIMATE IMPACT ON FLIGHTS TO AND FROM AND WITHIN THE COUNTRY CANNOT EVEN NOW BE FULLY DETERMINED. MY MINISTRY IS UNCLASSIFIED

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ENDEAVORING TO REMAIN IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH F EL SUPPLIERS

AND AIRLINES ALIKE IN ORDER TO MONITOR THE SITUATION AND BE  
IN A POSITION TO FORECAST THE ULTIMATE EFFECTS ON OUR TOURIST  
FLOW.

ALREADY SOME ADVERSE EFFECTS HAVE BEEN EXPERIENCED: BOAC  
HAS CANCELLED NEARLY 25 PERCENT OF ITS FLIGHTS TO THE BAHAMAS  
THIS MONTH AND SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTIONS OF SERVICE FROM PAN  
AMERICAN, EASTERN AIRLINES AND INTERNATIONAL AIR BAHAMA ARE  
SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY AND BEYOND. SOME CHARTER SERVICES  
HAVE ALSO BEEN AFFECTED. THE SITUATION IS NOT FULLY DEPENDENT  
UPON THE LEVEL OF FUEL SUPPLIES AVAILABLE WITHIN THE BAHAMAS.  
IN SOME CASES, CARRIERS ARE UNABLE TO OBTAIN SUFFICIENT FUEL  
FOR THEIR OUTBOUND FLIGHTS FROM THEIR POINTS OF ORIGIN.

THE PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT OF THE ENERGY CRISIS UPON  
POTENTIAL TRAVELLERS IS ALSO ACTING AS A DETERRENT TO MANY  
WHO ARE RELUCTANT TO MAKE PLANS IN VIEW OF THE UNCERTAINTY  
OF AIRLINE SCHEDULES AND THE POSSIBILITY OF OVERCROWDED  
FLIGHTS. IRONICALLY, THIS FEAR HAS LED TO AN INCREASING  
PERCENTAGE OF NO SHOWS ON MANY OF THE WORLD'S AIRLINES  
IN THE PAST FEW DAYS AND EVEN THOUGH SCHEDULES HAVE BEEN  
DRASTICALLY CURTAILED, LOAD FACTORS HAVE NOT GONE UP AS  
THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PASSENGERS HAS DECLINED. THIS OBVIOUSLY  
WILL EFFECT HOTEL OCCUPANCY. MY MINISTRY WILL MAKE EVERY  
EFFORT TO MINIMIZE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF THIS TYPE BY MAINTAINING  
CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY ABORAD THROUGH OUR OVER  
SEAS OFFICES TO NOTIFY THEM OF THE TRUE CONDITIONS OF TRAVEL  
AND SPACE AVAILABILITY TO THE BAHAMAS.

IN ORDER THAT THE MOST EFFECTIVE USE OF LOCALLY AVAILABLE  
FUEL SUPPLIES MAY BE MADE, A POLICY FOR AVIATION FUEL  
ALLOCATION WITHIN THE BAHAMAS HAS BEEN PREPARED AFTER  
CONSULTATION WITH AIRLINES AND FUEL SUPPLIERS. THAT POLICY  
IS:

ALL JET FUELS

(A) SCHEDULES DOMESTIC SERVICES (ALL BAHAMASAIR  
INTERNAL SERVICES; ALSO FLAMINGO'S NASSAU/MAYAGUANA/  
INAGUA SERVICE)

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(B) BAHAMASAIR AND OTHER SCHEDULES INTERNATIONAL CARRIERS  
SERVICES.

(C) INTERNATIONAL CHARTER CARRIERS, INCLUDING BAHAMAS  
WORLD AIRLINES.

(D) GENERAL AVIATION (CORPORATE OR PRIVATE JETS OR  
TURBINE AIRCRAFT)

ALL GRADES AVIATION GASOLINE

(A) BAHAMASAIR (SCHEDULED DOMESTIC AND DOMESTIC CHARTER OPERATIONS)

(B) SCHEDULED INTERNATIONAL CARRIERS

(C) DOMESTIC CHARTER OPERATORS

(D) FOREIGN CHARTER OPERATORS

(E) GENERAL AVIATION

FUEL SHOULD BE ALLOCATED BY EACH SUPPLIER IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRIORITIES GIVEN ABOVE. THIS IN EFFECT WILL MEA\* THAT AFTER THE REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHEDULED DOMESTIC SERVICES ARE MET, THE BALANCE OF FUEL AVAILABLE WILL BE ALLOCATED BY EACH SUPPLIER TO ITS VARIOUS CONTRACTED CUSTOMERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS. ANY BALANCE AFTER SUCH ALLOCATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE BY EACH SUPPLIER TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF ITS CONTRACTED CUSTOMERS OVER AND ABOVE THE CONTRACTUAL LEVELS, OR OF ITS OTHER CUSTOMERS, ALWAYS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRIORITIES GIVEN ABOVE.

SPECIAL NOTE SHOULD BE TAKEN OF FUEL SUPPLIES REQUIRED FOR AIR/SEA RESCUE SERVICES SUCH AS THOSE PERFORMED BY BASRA. THE BULK OF THE FUEL UTILIZED BY BASRA WOULD BE AVIATION GASOLINE RATHER THAN JET FUEL, AND IT IS SUGGESTED THAT FUEL BE MADE FREELY AVAILABLE TO ALL AIRCRAFT WHEN REQUIRED TO CONDUCT BASRA SERVICES WHETHER THEY BE COMMERCIAL OR PRIVATE AIRCRAFT." END TEXT

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Event:**  
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